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NO. 384
FEB.



Detective Comics presents

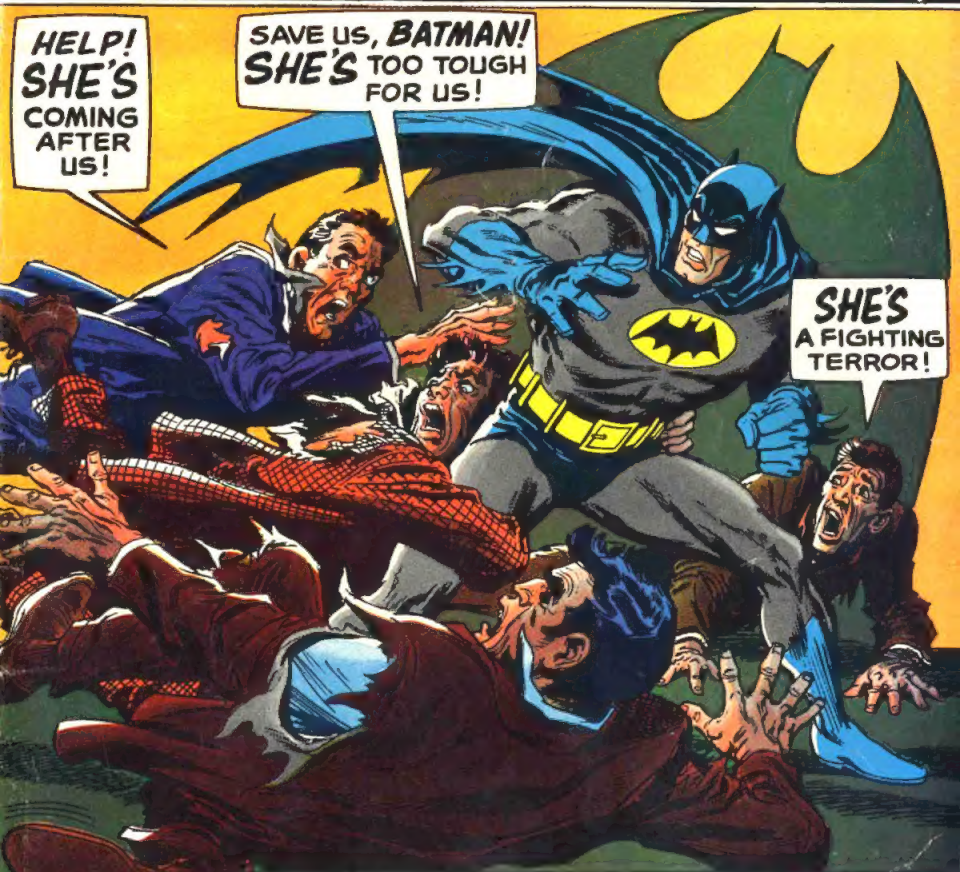
BATMAN and BATGIRL



HELP!
SHE'S
COMING
AFTER
US!

SAVE US, BATMAN!
SHE'S TOO TOUGH
FOR US!

SHE'S
A FIGHTING
TERROR!



WHO IS THE MYSTERIOUS **SHE?**

STORY
BY:
GARDNER
FOX

BATMAN

ART BY:
BOB BROWN
&
JOE GIELLA

THE GLIDE OF
TIRES ALONG
A DUSTY ROAD
--THE PURRING
OF A
POWERFUL
MOTOR-- AND
THE
BATMOBILE
IS OFF
ON ANOTHER
TOUR OF
CRIME-
INFESTED
GOTHAM CITY...

WITH **ROBIN**
OFF ON A
TEEN TITANS
CASE, HERE
I GO
SOLO-PATROLLING
AGAIN ...

HOPE IT'S AN EASY
NIGHT! I'M KINDA
TIRED AND...

SUDDENLY, **BATMAN** HITS
HIS BRAKE WITH A BOOTED
FOOT, AS...

THE RADARTECTOR
LIGHT IS BLINKING!

A CAR'S COMING
ALONG THE INTERSECTING
ROAD TO MY RIGHT!

CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE
ME EMERGING FROM THIS
HILL-SIDE-- IT MIGHT
GIVE AWAY THE
LOCATION OF THE
BATCAVE...

WHERE *IS* THAT
CAR? IT SHOULD
HAVE PASSED
BY--

I'D BETTER TAKE
A LOOK! SOMETHING
MAY BE WRONG...

A SUDDEN,
SHRILL,
SCREAM
ECHOES IN
THE NIGHT--
AND THE
MASKED
MANHUNTER
REACTS
LIKE A
RAGING
PANTHER...


AIEEEEEE!

I WAS
RIGHT!
SOMETHING
IS WRONG!

BETTER MAKE
A SURPRISE
APPEARANCE--
FROM NOWHERE!

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A dynamic comic book panel showing Batman swinging through the air on a rope. He is in a crouched position, ready for action. Below him, two men in suits are on the ground, one of whom is holding a woman with red hair. The woman looks distressed. The background is a dark, rocky landscape with some foliage.

THE BATROPE STRETCHES
TAUT-- A TREE-BRANCH
BENDS UNDER THE WEIGHT
OF A MIGHTILY MUSCLED
BODY-- AND THE CAPED
CRUSADER SWINGS
INTO ACTION!...

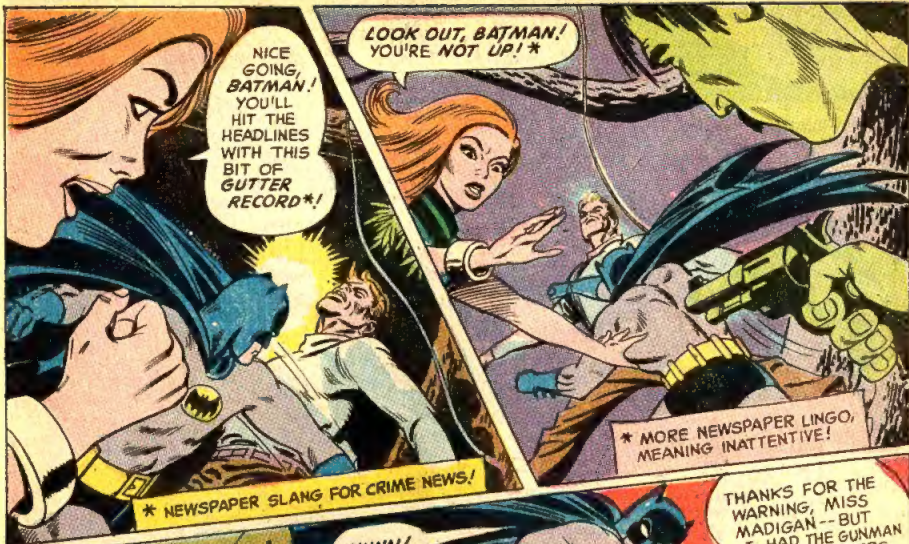
THAT GIRL IN
THE CLUTCHES
OF TWO THUGS--

LOOKS LIKE **HELOISE
MADIGAN**--THE RECENTLY
FOUND HEIRESS TO
THE LATE JOHN MADIGAN
FORTUNE!

BATMAN-- THANK
HEAVENS! SAVE
ME, SAVE ME!

TIRED AS HE IS, **BATMAN**
HAD BETTER BE AT HIS BEST--
FOR EVEN AS HE CATAPULTS
INTO FURIOUS FRAY, DARK
FORCES ARE AT WORK IN
GOTHAM CITY AND DEATH IS
LURKING FOR THE UNWARY!

"WHATEVER WILL HAPPEN
TO HEIRESS HELOISE?"



NICE GOING, BATMAN! YOU'LL HIT THE HEADLINES WITH THIS BIT OF GUTTER RECORD*!

LOOK OUT, BATMAN! YOU'RE NOT UP! *

* NEWSPAPER SLANG FOR CRIME NEWS!

* MORE NEWSPAPER LINGO, MEANING INATTENTIVE!



UHHN!

THANKS FOR THE WARNING, MISS MADIGAN -- BUT I HAD THE GUNMAN IN THE CORNERS OF MY EYES-- AND THE BATROPE HANDY!

BLAM




A JAB TO DOUBLE HIM UP--

...AND A ROUNDHOUSE TO FLATTEN HIM!

THEY HAVEN'T TURNED THE RULE* ON YOU YET, BATMAN! LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!

ZAPP


* MORE NEWSPAPER TALK, MEANING THE STORY ISN'T FINISHED YET!

A dynamic comic book panel showing Batman in his classic suit (blue cowl, grey bodysuit, blue gloves and boots, yellow utility belt with a bat emblem) performing a judo throw on a man with blonde hair wearing a white shirt and brown trousers. Batman is in a low, powerful stance, lifting the man's leg. The man is being thrown into the air, his body arched. The background is a bright yellow sky with red and orange streaks suggesting motion or a sunset. A speech bubble from Batman is in the top left.

NO NEED FOR THE
UNNECESSARY
COACHING,
HELOISE--

HE'S RUSHING
RIGHT INTO
A *SINGLE-
LEG
THROW*--

-- A JUDO-
STUNT
TECHNICALLY
KNOWN AS
THE *KATA
ASHI OORI!*

A comic book panel showing Batman and a woman named Heloise. Heloise is a blonde woman with long hair, wearing a green and black striped dress. She is standing and talking to Batman, who is seen from the back, wearing his blue cape and cowl. They are in a grassy field with trees in the background. A speech bubble from Heloise is on the left.

WHAT'S THIS
ALL ABOUT,
HELOISE?
WHAT DID
THEY WANT
WITH YOU?

TO KILL ME, THEY SAID--
AND DO AWAY WITH MY BODY,
SO NOBODY'D EVER FIND IT!

BUT WHAT
GOOD MY
DEATH
WOULD DO
THEM-- I
CAN'T
IMAGINE!

THEN--AFTER PHONING COMMISSIONER
GORDON ON THE *BATMOBILE'S HOT-LINE*--

THOSE WOULD-BE KILLERS
WILL STAY PUT TILL THE
POLICE PICK THEM UP--

MEANWHILE,
I'LL SEE YOU
SAFELY
HOME!

AT THE MADIGAN MANSION...

GOOD EVENING, MISS MADI-- OHH, THAT ISN'T YOUR NAME, AFTER ALL! I AM SO SORRY!

SORRY, JENKS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I--I HAVE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH! THE FAMILY LAWYER IS INSIDE-- HE WILL EXPLAIN...

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT MY NOT BEING HELOISE MADIGAN--?

I'M AFRAID IT'S ALL TOO TRUE, MISS--ER-- COLLEEN KIERNAN! EARLIER TODAY WE FOUND A LONG-LOST BABY RATTLE THAT BELONGED TO THE REAL MADIGAN GRANDDAUGHTER-- THE GIRL YOU CLAIM TO BE!

THE RATTLE WAS WEDGED BEHIND A LOOSE BOARD IN THE NURSERY-- SO THAT THE FINGERPRINTS ON IT WERE STILL CLEAR!

BUT WHEN THEY DIDN'T MATCH YOURS, WE CHECKED WITH THE F.B.I. MASTER FILE--AND DISCOVERED THOSE BABY-PRINTS MATCHED THE GROWN-UP PRINTS OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLERK!

HERE SHE IS NOW-- THE REAL HEIRESS TO THE MADIGAN MILLIONS!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT! FROM WHAT I READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS, MISS KIERNAN RECALLED EVENTS OF "HER" CHILDHOOD, INTIMATE FAMILY DETAILS ONLY THE REAL HELOISE COULD KNOW--

TRUE! SHE HAD EVERYTHING DOWN PAT! IT'S A MYSTERY HOW SHE LEARNED ALL ABOUT THE THE LONG-MISSING HEIRESS--

THAT'S SOMETHING SHE'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO A JURY!

I'M TAKING YOU IN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MISS KIERNAN!

OKAY! THIS AFFAIR SURE TURNED OUT TO BE A WATER HAUL* JOB!

*A WATER HAUL JOB, IN NEWSPAPER PARLANCE--IS WORK DONE FOR NOTHING!

AS THE PSEUDO-HEIRESS IS BOOKED
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

I WANT A
LAWYER--
AND A
BONDSMAN!

SHE SURE KNOWS
HER WAY AROUND...

> YAWN <
WELL, THAT
TAKES CARE
OF THAT! ON
WITH MY
PATROL...

BUT AS HE
SHUFFLES
TO THE
BATMOBILE,
THE **MASKED**
MANHUNTER
SUDDENLY
STIFFENS,
AS...

UH-OH! I
MUST BE
MORE TIRED
THAN I
THOUGHT!

IF MISS KIERNAN
ISN'T THE REAL
HEIRESS--THAT
ATTACK ON
HER WAS A
CASE OF
MISTAKEN
IDENTITY!
THE **REAL**
HELOISE
MADIGAN
MAY BE IN
DANGER!

LIKE AN AVENGING
SHADOW RACING
THROUGH THE NIGHT,
THE **BATMOBILE**
STABS ACROSS THE
MILES TOWARD THE
MADIGAN ESTATE...

WHY IS THE LIFE OF
THE MADIGAN HEIRESS
IN PERIL? WHAT BENEFIT
CAN ANYONE GET FROM
HER DEATH?

AND WITH THOSE QUESTIONS RINGING IN **BATMAN'S**
HEAD, LET US TAKE A 1 PAGE BREATH!

DECEMBER, 1968

MOON WALK

America's space program is rapidly closing in on the big adventure: the walk on the moon. And you can follow it, step-by-step, with Revell's new American Space Program Collector's Set. You can build authentic models of the three big events in space... the orbit, the space walk and the moon walk. The Gemini Spacecraft model includes details like a complete instrument panel. The space-walking Astronaut model is realistic down to moveable face visor. The Apollo model is almost as unbelievable as the program itself. There are five detachable, detailed sections. The Revell Space Program Collector's Set sells for under \$11.00.

For a catalog of 250 Revell models, send 25¢ to: Revell, Inc., 4318 Glencoe Avenue, Venice, California 90291.



Model of the Month
AMERICAN SPACE PROGRAM COLLECTOR'S SET

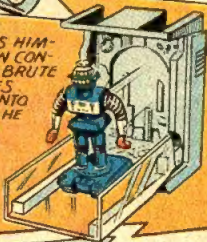
THE ZEROIDS™

ARE HERE!

FROM THE PLANET ZERO...
THE INCREDIBLE AUTOMATONS
FROM OUTER SPACE.

MOVING ACROSS THE
LANDSCAPE, OVERRUNNING
OBSTACLES, THESE AMAZING,
FEARLESS AND POWERFUL
AUTOMATONS HAVE BUT ONE
PURPOSE... TO SERVE
THEIR MASTERS --
YOU!

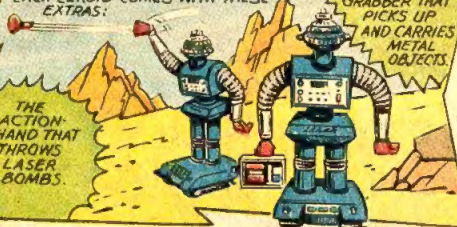
ZERAR, THE BLUE DESTROYER, FREES HIMSELF FROM HIS OWN CONTROL STATION. HIS BRUTE STRENGTH FORCES THE EXIT RAMP INTO POSITION, AND HE EMERGES WITH FIGHTING FISTS READY FOR ACTION!!!



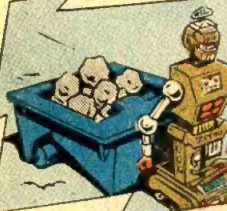
EACH ZEROID COMES WITH THESE EXTRAS:

THE ACTION-HAND THAT THROWS LASER BOMBS.

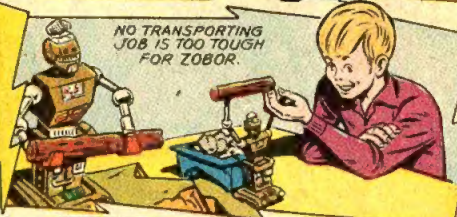
THE MAGNETIC GRABBER THAT PICKS UP AND CARRIES METAL OBJECTS.



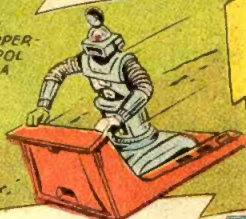
ZOBOR, THE BRONZE TRANSPORT ROBOT, HAS SPECIAL DUTY GRABBING-HOOKS. HIS CONTROL STATION BECOMES A COSMOBILE FOR HAULING HEAVY LOADS.



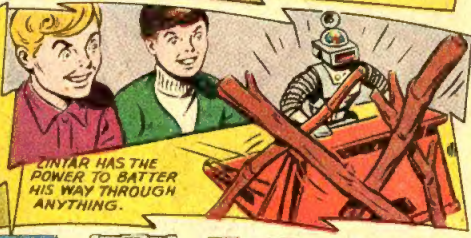
NO TRANSPORTING JOB IS TOO TOUGH FOR ZOBOR.



ZINTAR, THE SILVER EXPLORER, IS GRIPPER-FISTED. HIS CONTROL STATION BECOMES A DRAMATIC LUNAR SLED THAT MOBILIZES HIM FOR ACTION.



ZINTAR HAS THE POWER TO BATTER HIS WAY THROUGH ANYTHING.



EACH ZEROID COMES WITH A UNIQUE PAIR OF SPECIAL PURPOSE HANDS PLUS MAGNETIC AND THROWING HANDS FOR ACTION JOBS PLUS AN AUTOMATIC REVERSING TIE. ALL ZEROIDS ARE EQUIPPED WITH A FORWARD AND REVERSE MOTOR-POWERED TREAD-DRIVE SO THEY CAN HAUL, BATTER, RAM, ATTACK, LAUNCH, TRANSPORT, FIGHT -- ANYTHING!!!



THE **ZEROIDS™**

BROUGHT TO
EARTH BY



SOMEWHAT LATER--FLOODLIGHTS ILLUMINATE THE BIG POOL IN BACK OF THE MADIGAN MANSION, AS...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS ALL MINE! I'LL TAKE A DIP AND--

HOLD IT, HELOISE!

YOU'RE GOIN' FOR A RIDE-- NOT A SWIM!

A LIVING BULLET HURTTLES THROUGH THE GLARING FLOODLIGHTS--AND THE **CAPED CRUSADER** CARRIES THE TWO HOODLUMS OVER THE RIM OF THE POOL...

HEY, WHAT--?

YOWWWW!


LOOKS LIKE THIS NIGHT IS DEDICATED TO MY SAVING THE LIFE--

--OF ANYONE KNOWN AS **HELOISE MADIGAN!**


WE'LL STIFFEN **BATMAN** UNDERWATER...

YEAH-- LEAVE HIM THERE STIFF AS A DEAD MACKEREL!

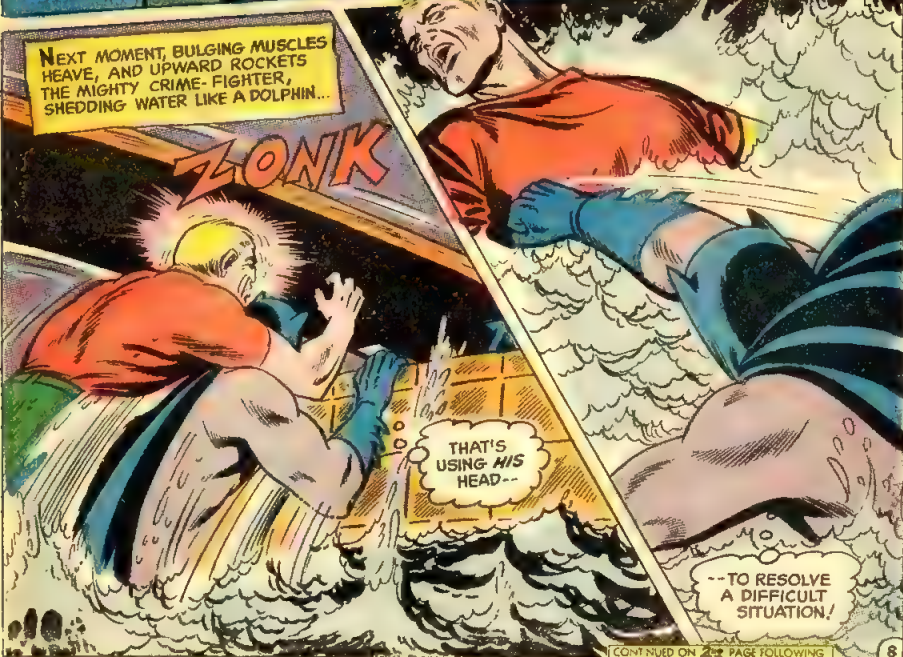
GOT TO KEEP THEM APART... STOP THEM FROM GANGING UP ON ME!

A comic book panel showing Batman in his yellow and black suit swimming underwater. He is holding a large, curved object, possibly a pipe or a weapon, and looking back over his shoulder. Bubbles are visible around him.

THIS ONE'S QUICK AS
AN EEL--CLAMPED AN
ARMLOCK AROUND MY
WINDPIPE!

A close-up comic book panel of a blue-gloved hand with a yellow cuff, gripping a wooden pipe. The hand is emerging from a pool of water, with splashes and ripples visible.

A GLOVED HAND
SHOOTS UPWARD--
FINGERS LIKE
STEEL-CLAWS
GRIP THE RIM
OF THE POOL...

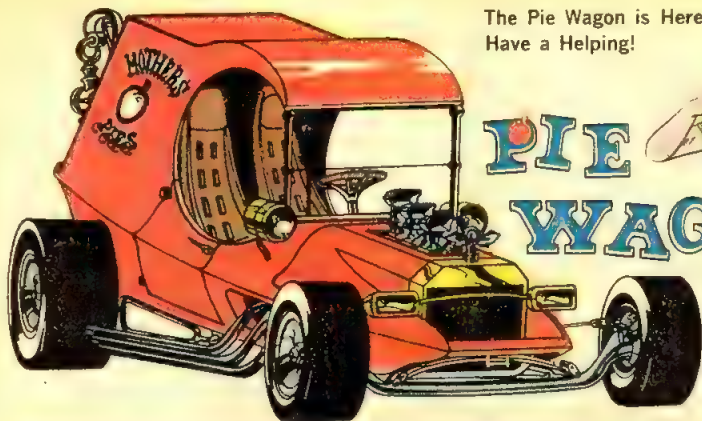
A large comic book panel showing a massive, purple-skinned hand with a blue glove reaching up from the water. It is holding Batman by the back of his head and shoulders, lifting him out of the water. Batman is wearing his red shirt and blue pants. The water is splashing around them.

NEXT MOMENT, BULGING MUSCLES
HEAVE, AND UPWARD ROCKET'S
THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER,
SHEDDING WATER LIKE A DOLPHIN...

ZONK

THAT'S
USING HIS
HEAD--

--TO RESOLVE
A DIFFICULT
SITUATION!



The Pie Wagon is Here!
Have a Helping!



PIE WAGON

The Crazy New
Plastic Truck
Model

ONLY
\$2

A pie hauler can be more fun than pie eating. Just you try it and see. This wild wagon is the newest from Tom Daniel, famous rod and drag designer. It's a clean machine in 1/24 scale.

Cherry color sculptured body, racing engine, removable hood,

operating rear door, bucket seats, stock of pies and pie case, mag-spoke wheels with wide oval tires and fat profile slicks. Scads of chrome and brass plated parts. Three different kinds of decals.

Hurry to your favorite store for a Pie Wagon. It's a cherry bomb.

You Always Have More Fun With a Monogram Kit



Monogram Models, Inc.,
Morton Grove, Illinois.

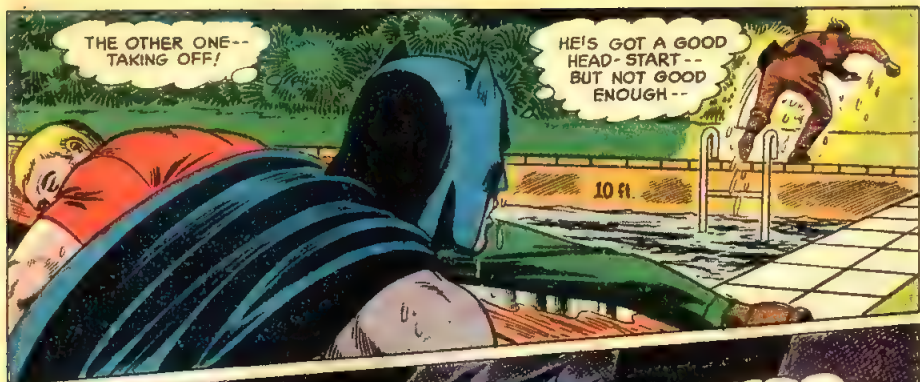
**NEW
FROM D.C.**

**HE'S
COMING
YOUR
WAY!**



**WILL
YOU
MEET
HIM?**

YOU CAN..
AT YOUR NEWSSTAND
DEC 12TH





THEN, AS THE BAT-CUFFED PRISONERS ARE HERDED TOWARD HEIRESS HELOISE...

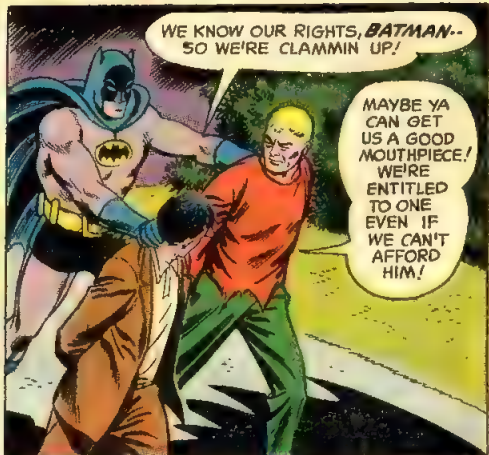
YOU WON'T GET ANYTHIN' OUT OF US, **BATMAN!**

WHY THE ATTACK ON MISS MADIGAN? WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?



MAYBE THEY HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST MY GRANDFATHER-- AND WERE TRYING TO TAKE IT OUT ON ME...?

HARDLY LIKELY! I'M CONVINCED THEIR TARGET WAS **YOU**-- THEIR MOTIVE, TO PROFIT SOMEHOW FROM YOUR DEATH!



WE KNOW OUR RIGHTS, **BATMAN**-- SO WE'RE CLAMMIN' UP!

MAYBE YA CAN GET US A GOOD MOUTHPIECE! WE'RE ENTITLED TO ONE EVEN IF WE CAN'T AFFORD HIM!



NEXT DAY IN WAYNE MANOR, AS BRUCE (**BATMAN**) WAYNE REFLECTS OVER THE PUZZLING CASE OF THE THREATENED HEIRESS...

HOLD EVERYTHING! I JUST REALIZED! THERE WAS NO WAY FOR THOSE THUGS TO HAVE KNOWN THE "SECOND" HELOISE MADIGAN WAS THE REAL HEIRESS!

COULD IT BE THAT **BOTH** ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS WERE AIMED AT **COLLEEN KIERNAN**? THE TWO GIRLS LOOK SOMEWHAT ALIKE...



IF THAT'S SO, IT'S **COLLEEN** WHO'S IN DANGER -- A DANGER THAT HAS NO TIE-IN AT ALL WITH THE MADIGAN MILLIONS!

I'D BETTER LOOK HER UP! SHE'S OUT ON BAIL-- BUT THE POLICE WOULD KNOW HER PRESENT WHEREABOUTS!

**SHORTLY, AT THE
STERLING HOTEL...**

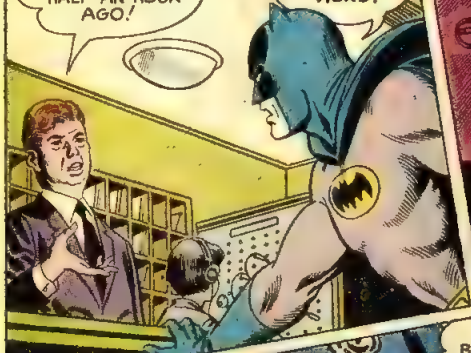
SORRY, **BATMAN**--
BUT MISS KIERNAN
IS NOT IN! I SAW
HER RUSH OUT
OF HERE--ABOUT
HALF AN HOUR
AGO!

I DON'T
SUPPOSE SHE
SAID WHERE
SHE WAS GOING?
IT MAY BE A
MATTER OF LIFE
AND DEATH--
HERS!

NO, I'M
AFRAID
NOT...

MISS, COULD YOU TELL
ME IF SHE MADE ANY
PHONE CALLS?

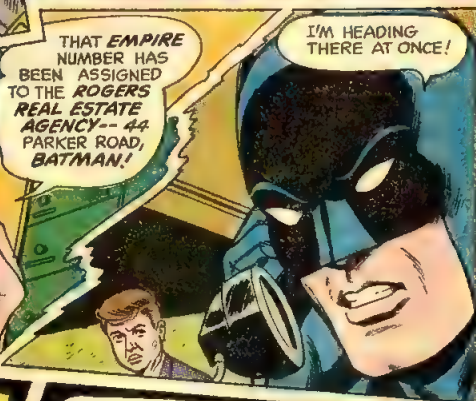
WHY...YES!
JUST ONE!
**EMPIRE 7-
9333!**



THAT **EMPIRE**
NUMBER HAS
BEEN ASSIGNED
TO THE **ROGERS**
REAL ESTATE
AGENCY-- 44
PARKER ROAD,
BATMAN!

I'M HEADING
THERE AT ONCE!

A QUICK
CALL TO
POLICE
HEADQUARTERS
AND --



**AT THAT MOMENT IN THE ROGERS REAL
ESTATE AGENCY--IN THE PRIVATE OFFICE
OF REAL ESTATE TYCOON KENNETH ROGERS...**

I JUST HEARD OVER
THE RADIO THAT
YOUR THUGS TRIED
TO KILL HELOISE
MADIGAN--
MISTAKING HER
FOR ME! THAT'S
TWICE YOU'VE
TRIED THAT
STUNT, ROGERS!

I'VE COME
TO WARN YOU--
ANY MORE OF
THOSE TACTICS
AND YOU'LL
REGRET IT!

I USED TO BE **BIG
JOHN MADIGAN'S**
CONFIDENTIAL
SECRETARY! NOBODY
KNEW THAT BUT
BIG JOHN AND ME!
THAT'S HOW I WAS
ABLE TO POSE AS HIS
LONG-LOST HEIRESS
AFTER HE DIED! IT'S
ALSO THE REASON WHY
I KNEW HOW HE MADE
HIS REAL FORTUNE--
NOT FROM HIS
NEWSPAPER--BUT
BY **BLACKMAILING**
YOU!

WHEN HE
DIED OF A
HEART ATTACK,
I TOOK OVER
HIS RACKET
AND **BLACKMAILED**
YOU MYSELF!



JUST AS **BIG JOHN** SAFEGUARDED HIMSELF AGAINST YOUR KILLING HIM-- SO HAVE I!

IN THE EVENT OF MY **UNNATURAL** DEATH, I'VE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROOF OF YOUR TIE-IN WITH THE CRIME SYNDICATE TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE!

BUT I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU! PAY ME A LUMP SUM-- AND I'LL TURN OVER THE EVIDENCE TO YOU AND LEAVE **GOTHAM CITY!**

NO DEAL, KIDDO! YOU AREN'T GOING TO LEAVE THIS ROOM ALIVE!

ARE YOU CRAZY? WHEN I'M FOUND DEAD, THE POLICE WILL GET THAT INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE!

NOT A CHANCE! WHEN YOU DIE-- COLLEEN KIERNAN WILL STILL BE ALIVE!

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU WILL-- WHEN YOU SEE WHO'S COMING IN THAT DOOR!

OH--SH-SHE--

SHE LOOKS ENOUGH LIKE YOU-- TO BE YOU!

SO WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, NO ONE WILL KNOW ABOUT IT-- AND NOBODY WILL GO LOOKING FOR THOSE PROOFS ABOUT ME!

LIPS TWISTED GRIMLY, KENNETH ROGERS LIFTS A GUN...

THIS TIME I'M GOING TO DO THE JOB THAT MY HIRED HANDS FLOPPED AT!

PLEASE, MR. ROGERS-- NOT WHILE I'M HERE! LET ME LEAVE FIRST--



BUT AS THE COLLEEN KIERNAN LOOK-ALIKE OPENS THE OFFICE DOOR...

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH TO TIE UP THE LOOSE ENDS IN THIS CASE!

B-BATMAN!



LOOK OUT! HE'S GOING TO PUSH THAT SWITCH-- SUMMON HELP!



STRAIGHT AND TRUE FLIES THE BATARANG!...

BATMAN-- THANK HEAVENS! SAVE ME, SAVE ME!

THE SAME WORDS SHE USED WHEN I FIRST SAVED HER LIFE!

AND SAVE IT I MUST-- IF JUSTICE IS TO BE SERVED!



WHOMP



KAYOED HIM-- BUT NOT IN TIME TO STOP HIS HAND!

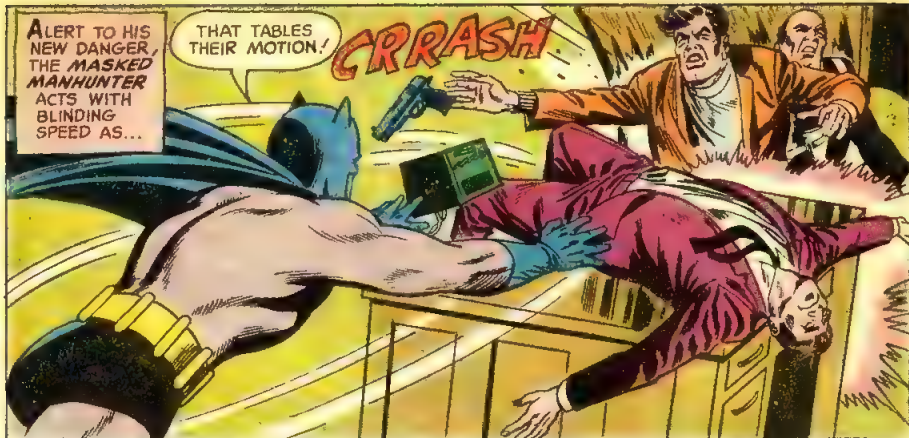
THWOK



AGAIN THE DOOR TO THE INNER ROOM OPENS AND...

WHAT'S UP, BOSS?

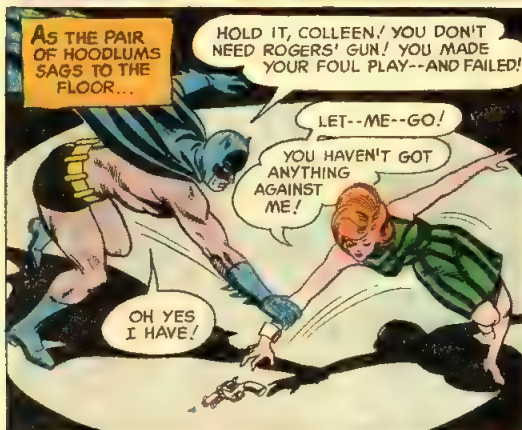
WHERE'S THE ACTION?



ALERT TO HIS
NEW DANGER,
THE MASKED
MANHUNTER
ACTS WITH
BLINDING
SPEED AS...

THAT TABLES
THEIR MOTION!

CRASH



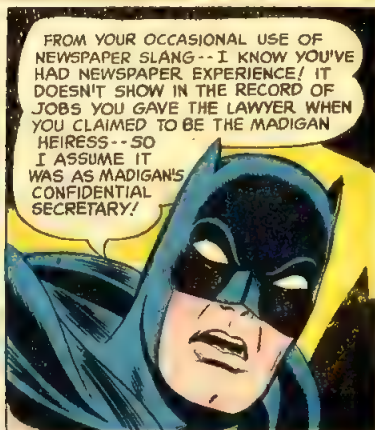
AS THE PAIR
OF HOODLUMS
SAGS TO THE
FLOOR...

HOLD IT, COLLEEN! YOU DON'T
NEED ROGERS' GUN! YOU MADE
YOUR FOUL PLAY--AND FAILED!

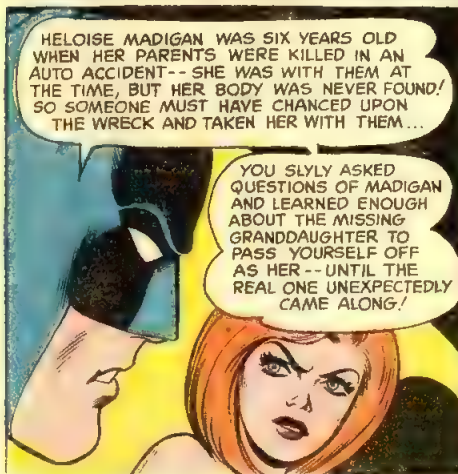
LET--ME--GO!

YOU HAVEN'T GOT
ANYTHING
AGAINST
ME!

OH YES
I HAVE!



FROM YOUR OCCASIONAL USE OF
NEWSPAPER SLANG-- I KNOW YOU'VE
HAD NEWSPAPER EXPERIENCE! IT
DOESN'T SHOW IN THE RECORD OF
JOBS YOU GAVE THE LAWYER WHEN
YOU CLAIMED TO BE THE MADIGAN
HEIRESS-- SO
I ASSUME IT
WAS AS MADIGAN'S
CONFIDENTIAL
SECRETARY!



HELOISE MADIGAN WAS SIX YEARS OLD
WHEN HER PARENTS WERE KILLED IN AN
AUTO ACCIDENT-- SHE WAS WITH THEM AT
THE TIME, BUT HER BODY WAS NEVER FOUND!
SO SOMEONE MUST HAVE CHANCED UPON
THE WRECK AND TAKEN HER WITH THEM...

YOU SLYLY ASKED
QUESTIONS OF MADIGAN
AND LEARNED ENOUGH
ABOUT THE MISSING
GRANDDAUGHTER TO
PASS YOURSELF OFF
AS HER -- UNTIL THE
REAL ONE UNEXPECTEDLY
CAME ALONG!



Y-YOU'RE JUST
GUESSING! YOU'LL
NEVER PROVE A
WORD OF
THAT!

THAT REMAINS TO
BE SEEN -- WHEN I
TESTIFY AT YOUR
TRIAL!

LATER, AFTER
ROBIN HAS
RETURNED
FROM HIS
TEEN TITANS
ADVENTURE...

HOW STRONG
A CASE DO YOU
REALLY HAVE
AGAINST MISS
KIERNAN?

IRONCLAD! ACTING UNDER
A COURT ORDER, THE
POLICE EXAMINED HER
SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX--
AND FOUND THE PROOF
NEEDED TO SEND KENNETH
ROGERS TO JAIL!

AND SINCE
HE WAS GOING
TO JAIL, ROGERS
TOLD ENOUGH
ABOUT COLLEEN
KIERNAN TO
HAVE THAT
BLACKMAILER
SERVE TIME
TOO!

TOO BAD ABOUT
ROGERS, IN A
WAY! POSING AS
A PHILANTHROPIST,
HE DONATED
\$50,000 TO
THE WAYNE
FOUNDATION
EVERY YEAR!
YOU WON'T
GET THAT
ANY MORE!

ON THE CONTRARY,
ROBIN! THE REAL
HELOISE MADIGAN
WAS SO HAPPY I
SAVED HER LIFE,
SHE WANTED TO
REWARD ME! I
CAN'T ACCEPT
REWARDS, BUT
I MENTIONED
THE FOUNDATION
... AND SHE SENT
IT A CHECK FOR
\$50,000!



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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

Hey, folks! You've come up with a real winner—*Detective Comics* 380 was a great issue! Haven't read any *Batman* quite like it in many months . . . all the elements of the old look mysteries and a contemporary undercurrent blended together into a beautiful production!

"Marital-Bliss Miss" was an awful title to a well-planned plot. The page 2 close-up of MRS. BRUCE WAYNE came near throwing me out of my seat! Miss Virginia Jenkins is a welcome addition to the cast—so keep her kooky and normal. No *Batgirl*-type antics for this one. 'Course, I think you've scared fandom half to death, and I think they'll be even more shook up when they realize that Virginia Wayne is a very pretty name! But that's the way it should be—keep 'em on their toes! Happiness is an issue of *Detective Comics* just like this one!

—Loren Lieberthal, New York, N.Y.

(The debut of Virginia Jenkins was a resounding success—which is more than we can say for the story's title! Too late it struck us that "Marital-Bliss Miss" was indeed a *miss*—a more appropriate, provocative title would have been, "The Girl Most Likely to Marry Batman!"—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I have been reading DC Comics practically ever since I learned how to read. Now at the ripe old age of 22 I am writing my first fan letter. The reason: *Detective Comics* 380 and Ginny Jenkins. There have been other issues of greater merit, certainly. But this is the first character to come along in a great while who really appeals to me. I like her better than Vicki Vale, Kathy Kane, and yes—even better, I think, than *Batgirl* (and that's something!)

For a change, we have no costumes, no gimmicks, but a *real* girl! I like her! (And so do Aunt Harriet and Dick, remember? Who knows, she may even be THE girl for our Bruce! We know from *Detective* 376 that he will marry eventually, so I hope he doesn't wait too long! One reason I pick Ginny over any of the other females you have featured is when a man marries, he wants a wife and a companion—not a competitor!

—Linda Louise Perry, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Editor:

As befitting as the poor cover and title logo of *Detective* 380, "Marital-Bliss Miss" was perhaps the most uninteresting *Batman* "new look" story published. It tried my patience to have to search, in frustration, for the usual exacting dilemma and *Batman* ingenuity present in the majority of Frank Robbins yarns.

To come to the point, the story lacked finesse. Inevitably, being without super-powers or some sort of alien bestowment, it can be expected of the *Dynamic Duo* to be involved in down-to-earth predicaments and to fight the upper-class city scourge with predicated regularity. Granted, also, that this quality distinguishes *Batman* from any and all competition thereof, and does so for the benefit of its readers. But there is such a thing as under-overdoing it, which may be described as runaway deflated-inflation. It's simply, not to be naive, too

simple. An explanation here is in order, in order to fit my paled accusations.

The action, what little there was, consisted of nothing more than the usual rock-'em sock-'em bullet-blazing sequence, resulting in the culprit being either (1) apprehended or (2) killed. There was variation here though with an outsider doing the job.

It seems that half the story was a jumble of drawn-out dialogue, which did nothing more than to provide substitution for criminal fighting. And as for the characterization—come on now! Virginia Jenkins was a pitiful and as downgrading approach to adulthood (young lady) that I've seen. She practically insulted my contention of considering myself at least nearing adulthood at the age of seventeen.

—Ron Jenkins, Coronado, Cal.

(Hmm . . . odd — coincidental (?) — about this correspondent's "pitiful downgrading" of Virginia . . . considering that they both happen to have the same surname! — Editor)

Dear Editor:

"Marital-Bliss Miss," although very badly titled, turned out to be a good story. Far better, in fact, than any other Frank Robbins has turned out for National. However, I would like to complain about the way he is characterizing Alfred. Bruce Wayne's butler is not the idiot Robbins is making him out to be; he is an intelligent and trusted gentleman's gentleman. If Robbins feels that Alfred has to be changed, after so many years of faithful and popular service, let's make him like Mr. French on television's "Family Affair" and less like that "French" detective-bumbler of "The Pink Panther." Alfred's imbecilic behavior when Ginny popped in was unbefitting his usual self. In fact, the reactions of both Dick Grayson and Alfred were very far out of character (and since Frank Robbins is still getting used to write for *Batman*, I can grant him a few characterization mistakes).

Bruce Wayne is about forty years old now, so even though he sidelines as a crime-fighter, no regular member of his household should be at all surprised to see him married. Well, *surprised* a little maybe, but certainly not shocked or appalled as Alfred apparently was.

As usual, I had one of my legendary "I know how the story is going to end!" flashes and was, as usual, dead wrong. You see, with Ginny's brother talking in the guarded "To achieve our objective . . . eliminate this Bruce Wayne" dialogue, I was pretty sure that he would turn out to be an honest businessman who was trying to beat the Wayne Foundation out of a deal, but no such thing! Oh, well . . . great story anyway. Let's see more of Ginny Jenkins as well as more of Bob Brown penciling.

—Steven Carlberg, Shreveport, La.

(Robbins hopefully thought that it's time for a character-change in Alfred—but if you diehard *Batman* fans think that the butler's status should be *quo*; then so be it. —Editor)

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE
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IS BAT LASH

SAVING THE WEST

OR

RUNNING IT?



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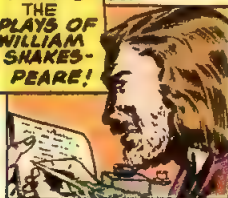
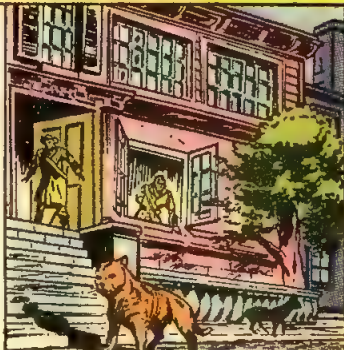
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386	386
310,236	268,876
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570,000	500,000

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. **BERNARD KASHDAN** Business Manager

STORY
BY:
MIKE
FRIEDRICH

BATGIRL

ART BY:
GIL
KANE
&
MURPHY
ANDERSON

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

IT'S THE END OF A WEEK FOR LIBRARIAN BARBARA (BAT-GIRL) GORDON AT A BRANCH OF THE GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY SYSTEM...

HANDLING SPECIAL SERVICES THIS PAST MONTH IS SO MUCH MORE REFRESHING THAN THE FILING WORK I WAS DOING!

HERE'S THAT MAN I'VE WATCHED MAKE THE SCENE EVERY FRIDAY--F30 ON THE DOT, AS USUAL! HMM... HE'S SURE A SHARP DRESSER!



FRIDAY, DEC. 13

MIGGS, MAY I SEE THE DECEMBER 14TH ISSUES OF THE GOTHAM GAZETTE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS?

ODD... HE ALWAYS ASKS FOR BACK ISSUES OF THE SAME DATE...

I HOPE HE NOTICES MY NEW OUTFIT...



CERTAINLY, MR. HANNER!

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

I'VE CHANGED MY GLASSES TO CONTACTS ... BUT STILL NO REACTION FROM MARK HANNER!

MY HAIR-DO... THINK I'LL FIX IT UP FOR NEXT WEEK'S VISIT! IF THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM NOTICE ME...



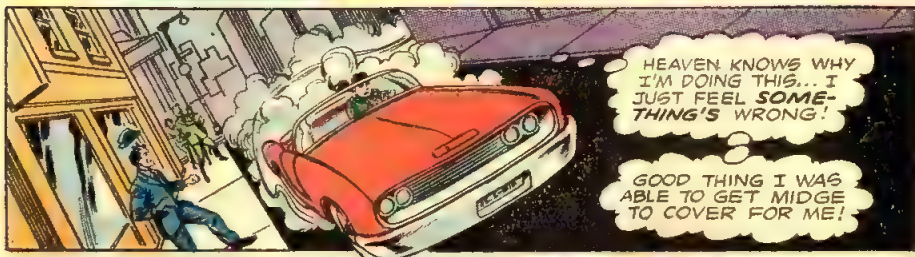
Tall, Dark, Handsome

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

TWO O'CLOCK... AND NO MARK! HE'S NEVER BEEN LATE BEFORE!



--and MISSING!





80 pg. GIANT

NO. 263

MAR

25¢



SGT. ROCK'S PRIZE BATTLE TALES



THE
BIG ONE
IS HERE!

IT EXPLODES
ON SALE
DEC. 10th

RUSHING OFF--
AS IF TO A
FIRE SALE!

DO I KNOW HER?
JUST CAUGHT A
GLIMPSE OF HER
FACE, BUT IT
SEEMED FAMILIAR...

MARK'S DOOR
IS OPEN! IS
HE OUT--?

NOBODY HERE! ^{SNIFF}
^{SNIFF} THAT PERFUME
--IT'S THE SAME BRAND
THAT HURRY-UP GIRL
WAS EXPOSING TO
THE WORLD!

HAS MARK BEEN GOING
AROUND WITH A GIRL
FRIEND I DIDN'T KNOW
ABOUT? --IF HE HAS--
OH--THAT TWO-TIMER!

BUT WHAT WAS
SHE DOING
HERE--AND WHY'D
SHE CUT OUT SO
QUICKLY?

THE MEDICINE
CABINET'S
OPEN, TOO!

THERE MUST BE
SOME BIG HASSLE
IF SHE TORE OUT
SO FAST SHE DIDN'T
CLOSE ANY DOORS
AFTER HER!

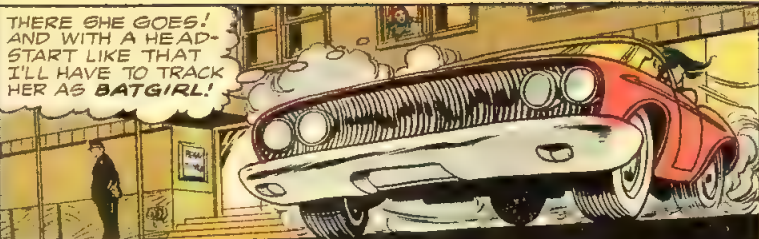
A MISSING MEDICINE
BOTTLE! MARK
COULD BE SICK
AND --

MISS 100-YARD
DASH IS MY ONLY
LEAD --AND
COMMISSIONER
GORDON'S LITTLE
DAUGHTER BETTER
FOLLOW IT!

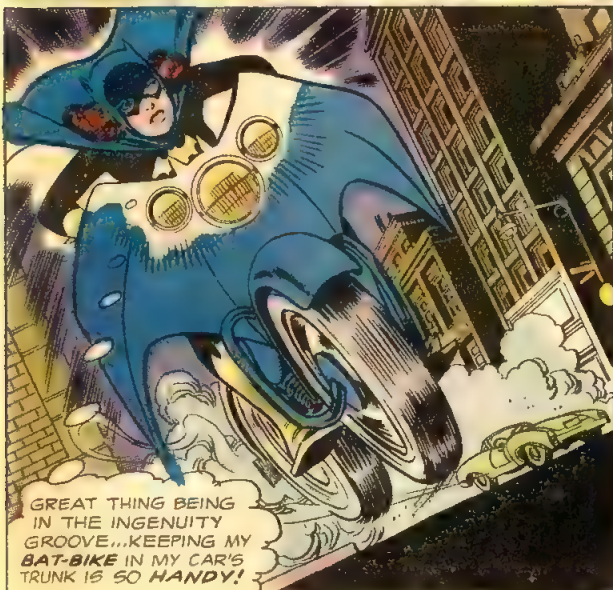
SPEEDING
TO THE
WINDOW
AT THE
SOUND OF
SCREECHING
TIRES...



THERE SHE GOES!
AND WITH A HEAD-
START LIKE THAT
I'LL HAVE TO TRACK
HER AS **BATGIRL!**

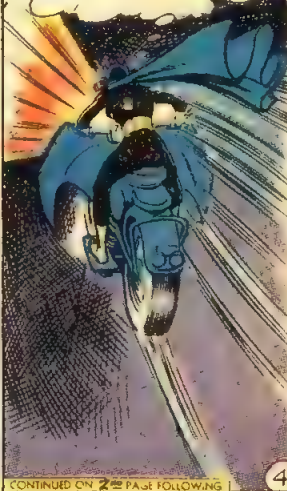


RACING LIKE A MILLER DOWN THE STRETCH, BARBARA ZIPS OUT OF THE
APARTMENT AND GUNS HER CAR TO THE NEAREST DESERTED ALLEY, WHERE
SHE CHANGES TO **GOTHAM'S MYSTERIOUS MASKED MAIDEN!**...



GREAT THING BEING
IN THE INGENUITY
GROOVE...KEEPING MY
BAT-BIKE IN MY CAR'S
TRUNK IS SO HANDY!

MY MULTI-COLORED LIGHT-
TRACER FIXED ON HER
CAR EASILY! BETTER GET
A MOVE ON, IF I'M GOING
TO CATCH UP!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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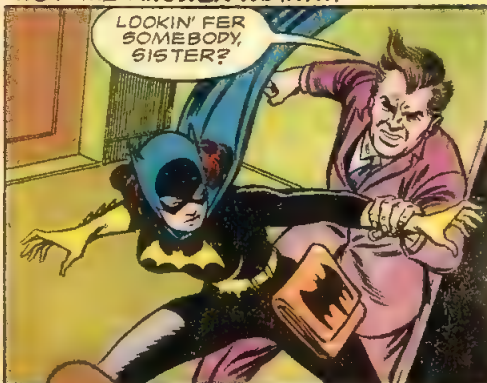
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BROWNSTONE IN GOTHAM CITY...

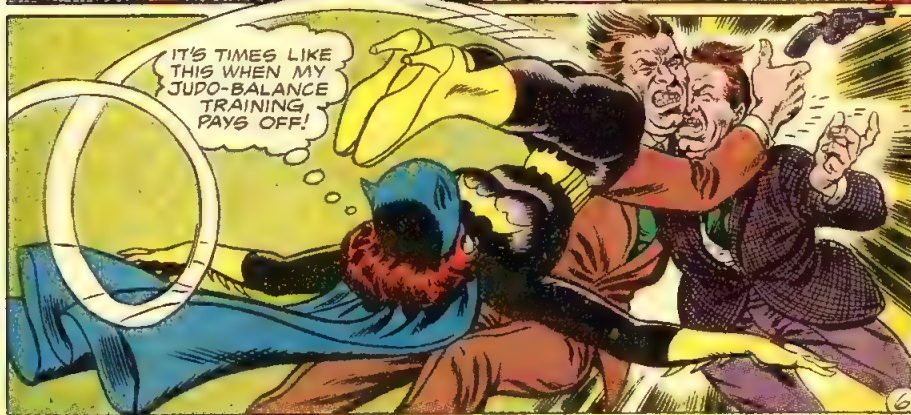
CRAWLING FROM THE WOODWORK IS
NOT THE ANSWER MAN...



HEY,
WHAT--

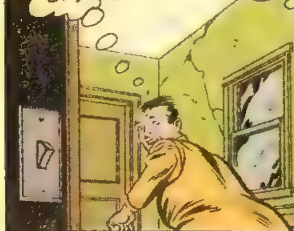
WHAT'S COMING OFF?
DID I TRIP ACROSS A
CRIME--OR JUST
SOME DEADWOOD?

WE GOT
TROUBLE,
GUYS...
BATGIRL'S
OUT HERE!
LET'S GET
ER 'FORE
SHE
CAUSES
ANY
PROBLEMS!



I'M GETTIN'
OUTA HERE!
THAT
BROAD
AIN'T GONNA
MESS ME
UP!

MAYBE
THE GIRL'S
BACK
THERE--!



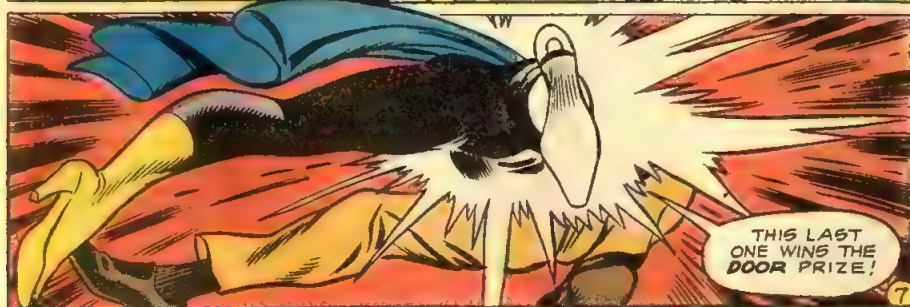
WEB... WEB...
LET ME IN! LET
ME IN!



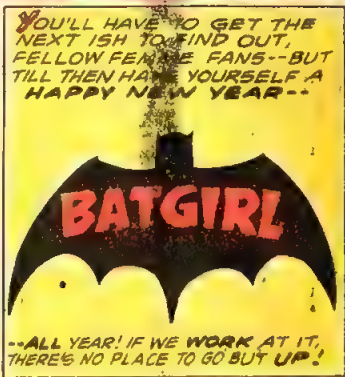
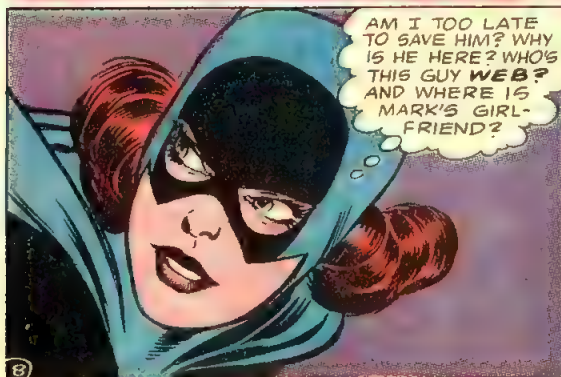
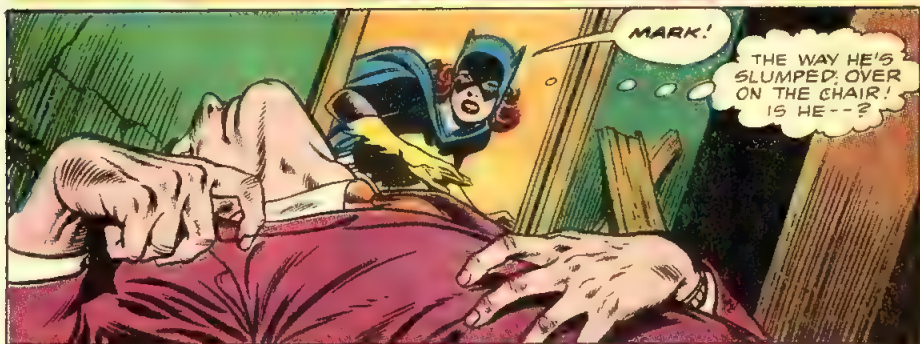
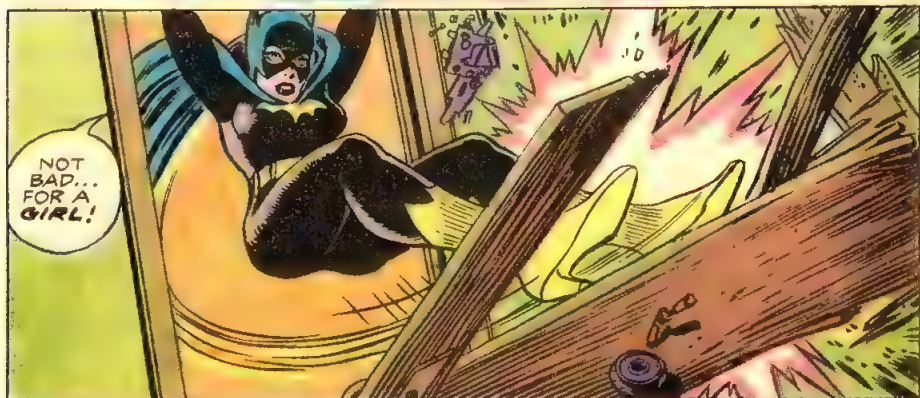
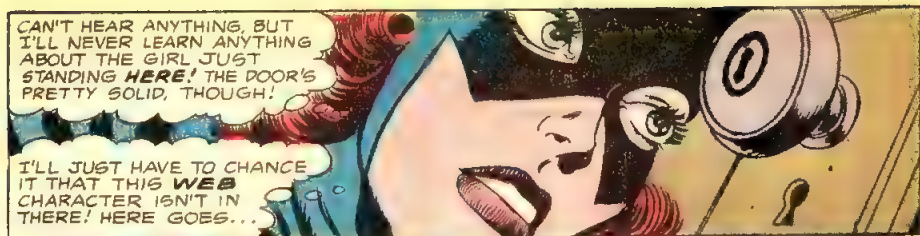
WEB MUST'VE
LOCKED THE DOOR!



NOW TO HELP
THAT OTHER POOR
SOUL WHO'S BEEN
SWEET ENOUGH TO
WAIT AT THE DOOR
FOR ME!



THIS LAST
ONE WINS THE
DOOR PRIZE!





IT'S 12 O'CLOCK..



MAR
NO. 1

The WITCHING HOUR!

12c



NATURALLY...
IT GOES ON SALE
AT MIDNIGHT DEC 19th

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE-EXTRA

Dear Editor:

I'd like to discuss a certain point that is, unfortunately perhaps, dominant in the *Caped Crusader*. That is the lack of characterization. And when I say *Batman* I MEAN *Batman*, the hero that the *Gotham* public sees, not the secret identity that we see.

I believe that Bruce Wayne has purposely allowed himself to seem as the idol-idle millionaire. If Bruce were to go about digging up crime information, or fighting every bum who jeered Uncle Sam, attention would be drawn to him and the old "Bruce Wayne is *Batman*" suspicion would crop up again, something that has been suppressed by the contrast between the bland Bruce and the battling *Batman*. Of course, such a thing would most certainly cause frustrations. Who likes to be bland? And so Bruce finds an outlet for his suppressed frustrations as *Batman*. Because he IS *Batman* and is popular and so respected, he strives to attain what would normally be impossible in the field of detection, and trains himself constantly for great feats of strength and acrobatics when fighting crime. The reason: in order to preserve his secret identity, he becomes a passive, dull Bruce. And for someone like *Batman*, that must be unbearable! So he finds relief in *Batman*, because what he cannot do as Bruce, he is expected to do as *Batman*. In order to gain favor and the attention he subconsciously needs, due to his forced passiveness as Bruce, he tries harder and harder to be a great *Batman*.

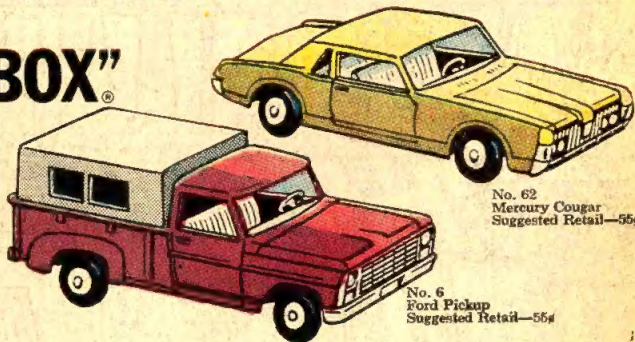
Witness "The Man who Radiated Fear," in *Batman* 200. Here, when stymied and defeated for the first time, he gives up! This is because the effectiveness of *Batman* as an emotional outlet is destroyed. He cannot achieve his heart's desire of fame and success now, so he is willing to retire and live as Bruce Wayne. Certainly after this, the person of Bruce will become a stronger personality and have much of the characteristics that *Batman* possessed. As Alfred pointed out, they are not *Batman* and *Robin* to satisfy their own hang-ups and egos. They are what they are in order to fight crime and evil. When they say that they lost sight of their original purposes, what is really meant is that their original purposes have become secondary to the thrills and fame they attain as *Batman* and *Robin*.

Now, *Batman* has continued to be the dominant personality. This is because Bruce *likes* to be *Batman* much better than he likes to be Bruce. Witness *Detective Comics* 372. He willingly left his date, not because it was his duty, but because he wanted to be *Batman*. His date, Andrea, could very much have stayed and watched Bruce cream the *savate* crooks. Indeed, she would be very much impressed. But trouble is, when Bruce saw the attack, his *Batman* personality took over and he didn't want Andrea around, because she was of Bruce's life and not *Batman*'s.

Batman does not want romance. He has always been straightlipped and stolid when *Vicki Vale*, *Batwoman*, *Poison Ivy*, and *Catwoman* swooned over him. Why *Batman* doesn't want romance is simple: to his altered ego he would really prefer to be admired by many rather than one. *Batman* might be able to work more effectively outside the law, seemingly a criminal himself, but his own desire for fame that is not in Bruce Wayne's life, rather than his love for justice, demands appreciation by the masses.

Robin is easily different. He acts greatly as *Robin* not to satisfy himself to fame, but to please Bruce. Really, it is Bruce who is more impressed and pleased, because Bruce doesn't do such dramatic things, while *Batman* does them easily. This is why *Batman* often tells Dick to stay behind and study. Dick is quite smart, and doesn't need to study a great deal; due to good upbringing he naturally studies hard, but what *Batman* really means is that he "doesn't need him." Often, because he cannot do like *Batman* does, *Robin* becomes imperiled. And then *Batman* easily frees him. I believe that *Robin* is less than *Batman* mostly because, as a schoolboy, he has a much more interesting life. But Bruce knows all this, so his life isn't interesting. This, added to the appearance-burden that Bruce must bear in order to protect *Batman*, makes the *Batman* life the life he would much rather have. — *Carl Gafford, New Milford, Conn.* (You've really done plenty of spade work to dig deeply into Bruce (*Batman*) Wayne's mental processes. How much you shoveled up that is valid—or invalid (to use both meanings of the word!)—we're leaving to your fellow readers. — *Editor*)

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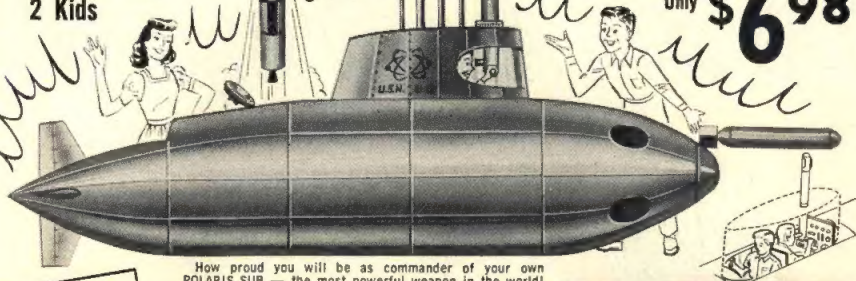
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No. F200 — \$1.25

Smoke Screen

Light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect. No. 971... ..20c



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Imagine your friends' shock when they walk into your room and see the "visitor" standing around... as BIG as life. Dracula... as horrible and sinister as any nightmare. And so life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them.

No. F17A-Dracula \$1.25
No. F17B-Wolfman \$1.25



X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$100

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties.

No. FL7 \$1.00

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With combination lock only you can open.

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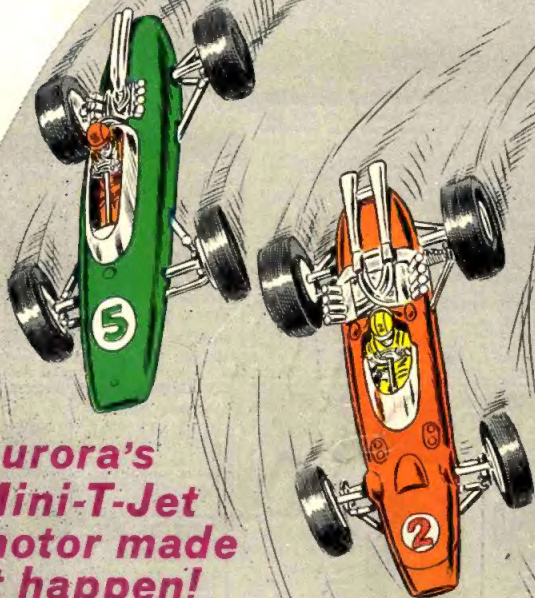
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FORMULA I RACING SET in HO SCALE





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